

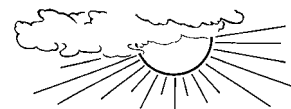


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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending July 18, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Poor week for Field Work: Two days were suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent short, 66 percent adequate and 31 percent surplus, an increase in adequate and surplus due to the rain. Principal farm activities included cutting 2nd hay crop, spreading fertilizer, spreading manure, applying herbicides and pesticides, harvesting wheat, picking fruit, repairing fences and machinery, and baling straw.

Crops: Corn silking was 58 percent complete, which was ahead of last year at 2 percent and the 5-year average of 24 percent. Corn in dough stage was at 9 percent, compared to 4 percent for a 5-year average. The average height of corn was 69 inches statewide, while last year corn was an average of 43 inches, and a 5 year average of height is 51 inches. Corn condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 47 percent excellent. Winter wheat was 99 percent ripe, compared to 65 percent in 2003 and the 5-year average of 85 percent. Seventy-two percent of the winter wheat in Pennsylvania has been harvested, compared to 30 percent last year and 63 percent as the five year average. The winter wheat condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 45 percent good and 8 percent excellent. Barley was 98 percent harvested, compared to 87 percent last year, and the five year average of 91 percent. Oats were 95 percent headed, compared with 90 percent in 2003, and 94 percent for the 5-year average. Oats were 60 percent yellow, 31 percent yellow in 2003, and 58 percent yellow for the 5-year average. Oats ripe was rated at 23 percent complete, with 7 percent and 31 percent complete for last year and the 5-year averages, respectively. Oat condition was 7 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 38 percent good and 12 percent excellent. Soybean condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 37 percent excellent. Alfalfa second cutting was 63 percent complete, compared to 37 percent last year, and 59 percent for the 5-year average. Alfalfa third cutting was 15 percent complete, the same week in 2003 was 7 percent

complete, and the 5-year average is 12 percent. Alfalfa stand was rated 3 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 48 percent good and 23 percent excellent. The first cutting of timothy clover was 91 percent complete, compared with 77 percent last year and 88 percent for the 5-year average. The second cutting of timothy clover was 14 percent complete, ahead of last year at 7 percent, and behind the 5-year average of 18 percent. The timothy clover stand was rated 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 42 percent good and 23 percent was excellent. The quality of the hay made was 17 percent very poor, 25 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 27 percent good, and 10 percent excellent.

Peach harvest was 26 percent complete, which is ahead of 9 percent last year, and ahead of the 5-year average of 11 percent. Peach condition was rated as 1 percent poor, 6 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 55 percent excellent. Apples were 7 percent harvested, which is slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Apple condition was rated as 20 percent fair, and 55 percent good and 25 percent excellent.

Livestock: During the last week, the pasture condition in Pennsylvania was rated at 4 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 57 percent good and 16 percent excellent. Animals were being rotated on to different pastures across the state.

U.S. As of July 11, 2004: Corn silking progressed to 32 percent complete, 16 percentage points ahead of last year and 11 points ahead of the 5-year average. Five percent of the crop was at the dough stage or beyond, compared with 3 percent for last year and normal. The crop advanced steadily through the silking stage in the central Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, despite cool, wet conditions early in the week. Winter wheat producers had harvested 69 percent of the Nation's winter wheat crop, 2 points ahead of last year but 2 points behind normal. Soybeans blooming advanced to 39 percent complete, 17 points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 18, 2004

| Station | Last Week Weather Summary | | | | | | April 1 - July 18, 2004 | | | | | GDD Base 40F Total |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---------------|------|-------------------------|-------|------|--------------|------|-----------------------------|
| | Temperature | | | | Precipitation | | Precipitation | | | GDD Base 50F | | |
| | High | Low | Average | DFN | Total | Days | Total | DFN | Days | Total | DFN | |
| Northwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie | 82 | 60 | 70 | -2 | 2.64 | 6 | 14.80 | 2.00 | 59 | 1,341 | 181 | 2,255 |
| Franklin | 86 | 56 | 69 | -2 | 3.96 | 5 | 19.79 | 4.86 | 63 | 1,302 | 191 | 2,236 |
| Meadville | 84 | 57 | 69 | 2 | 4.66 | 6 | 17.91 | 3.66 | 60 | 1,228 | 218 | 2,132 |
| Mercer | 85 | 51 | 67 | -3 | 1.36 | 6 | 15.01 | 0.70 | 49 | 1,051 | -54 | 1,942 |
| Springboro | 84 | 58 | 70 | -2 | 2.58 | 7 | 19.92 | 7.21 | 67 | 1,243 | 70 | 2,136 |
| Warren | 85 | 56 | 68 | -2 | 3.49 | 6 | 23.53 | 8.65 | 68 | 1,206 | 127 | 2,124 |
| North Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bradford Region | 82 | 50 | 66 | 0 | 2.71 | 7 | 17.22 | 2.11 | 74 | 1,015 | 245 | 1,898 |
| Emporium | 85 | 57 | 69 | 4 | 3.67 | 7 | 17.22 | 1.91 | 60 | 1,291 | 421 | 2,223 |
| Kane | 79 | 46 | 62 | -4 | 3.49 | 7 | 17.94 | 2.78 | 54 | 638 | -123 | 1,462 |
| Laporte | 81 | 56 | 67 | -5 | 1.99 | 6 | 18.52 | 4.29 | 66 | 1,093 | -16 | 1,991 |
| Lock Haven | 86 | 59 | 71 | -1 | 4.11 | 4 | 22.82 | 9.02 | 51 | 1,457 | 268 | 2,454 |
| Port Allegany | 84 | 54 | 68 | 2 | 2.26 | 7 | 15.39 | 0.77 | 58 | 1,084 | 213 | 1,968 |
| Renovo | 85 | 60 | 71 | -1 | 3.42 | 6 | 17.41 | 3.61 | 54 | 1,420 | 231 | 2,387 |
| Ridgway | 83 | 52 | 68 | 2 | 4.80 | 5 | 21.37 | 6.06 | 51 | 1,074 | 204 | 1,963 |
| Stevenson Dam | 84 | 58 | 69 | 4 | 2.13 | 4 | 16.84 | 1.53 | 58 | 1,345 | 475 | 2,295 |
| Towanda | 86 | 57 | 69 | -2 | 3.23 | 6 | 14.76 | 2.98 | 56 | 1,323 | 202 | 2,264 |
| Wellsboro | 81 | 56 | 66 | -1 | 2.08 | 5 | 16.98 | 5.06 | 57 | 1,068 | 257 | 1,961 |
| Williamsport | 85 | 60 | 72 | -2 | 2.00 | 6 | 16.14 | 2.29 | 65 | 1,541 | 217 | 2,548 |
| Northeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawley | 86 | 53 | 67 | -2 | 0.87 | 4 | 12.53 | -0.67 | 45 | 1,095 | 161 | 1,995 |
| Wilkes-Barre/Sc | 86 | 59 | 70 | -3 | 1.15 | 5 | 13.45 | 0.54 | 50 | 1,408 | 152 | 2,384 |
| Susquehanna | 86 | 60 | 70 | 3 | 3.55 | 5 | 16.61 | 2.50 | 52 | 1,337 | 442 | 2,290 |
| West Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butler | 86 | 56 | 69 | -2 | 1.01 | 6 | 17.66 | 3.57 | 66 | 1,312 | 154 | 2,246 |
| New Castle | 89 | 57 | 72 | 2 | 1.50 | 4 | 16.40 | 3.37 | 49 | 1,435 | 268 | 2,380 |
| Slippery Rock | 87 | 56 | 70 | 2 | 0.76 | 5 | 17.37 | 3.57 | 64 | 1,383 | 334 | 2,338 |
| Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altoona/Blair | 82 | 55 | 71 | -1 | 1.86 | 7 | 15.63 | 2.69 | 56 | 1,437 | 176 | 2,388 |
| DuBois | 82 | 53 | 68 | -2 | 1.31 | 7 | 20.12 | 5.78 | 70 | 1,233 | 154 | 2,155 |
| Lewistown | 85 | 58 | 72 | -2 | 1.44 | 3 | 16.48 | 2.60 | 50 | 1,550 | 165 | 2,547 |
| Middletown | 85 | 62 | 73 | -4 | 2.80 | 5 | 16.26 | 2.74 | 46 | 1,800 | 225 | 2,834 |
| Prince Gallitzi | 84 | 51 | 68 | 1 | 1.10 | 5 | 18.98 | 2.70 | 54 | 1,253 | 265 | 2,174 |
| Selinsgrove | 86 | 59 | 71 | -2 | 3.13 | 6 | 16.97 | 3.08 | 55 | 1,496 | 207 | 2,481 |
| State College | 82 | 59 | 70 | -2 | 1.85 | 5 | 15.14 | 2.36 | 48 | 1,473 | 230 | 2,439 |
| East Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allentown-Bethel | 88 | 59 | 71 | -4 | 3.41 | 3 | 14.62 | 0.79 | 46 | 1,595 | 162 | 2,611 |
| Lehighton | 85 | 59 | 68 | -6 | 4.39 | 7 | 18.78 | 4.85 | 58 | 1,400 | 27 | 2,388 |
| Matamoras | 85 | 56 | 67 | -5 | 1.41 | 4 | 11.54 | -3.13 | 45 | 1,199 | -39 | 2,141 |
| Tobyhanna | 82 | 52 | 68 | 3 | 2.80 | 6 | 19.77 | 4.45 | 65 | 1,185 | 379 | 2,106 |
| Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh/Alle | 85 | 58 | 72 | 0 | 0.87 | 4 | 14.97 | 1.42 | 55 | 1,611 | 344 | 2,595 |
| Derry | 84 | 58 | 70 | 0 | 1.02 | 4 | 20.17 | 6.36 | 63 | 1,411 | 234 | 2,373 |
| Myersdale | 80 | 50 | 67 | -3 | 1.85 | 4 | 17.63 | 2.37 | 51 | 1,163 | 17 | 2,073 |
| Mount Pleasant | 83 | 56 | 71 | 3 | 0.61 | 4 | 17.37 | 1.79 | 45 | 1,444 | 408 | 2,397 |
| Pittsburgh Intl | 84 | 59 | 71 | -2 | 1.41 | 6 | 17.19 | 4.50 | 54 | 1,645 | 313 | 2,627 |
| Rector | 86 | 56 | 70 | 2 | 1.14 | 5 | 20.12 | 4.54 | 64 | 1,449 | 413 | 2,414 |
| Waynesburg | 86 | 55 | 71 | 0 | 0.80 | 4 | 17.71 | 3.96 | 56 | 1,478 | 252 | 2,437 |
| South Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biglerville | 85 | 53 | 70 | -6 | 1.43 | 6 | 20.86 | 8.44 | 54 | 1,602 | 52 | 2,606 |
| Everett | 84 | 56 | 71 | 0 | 2.63 | 4 | 16.33 | 3.92 | 48 | 1,238 | 7 | 2,154 |
| Hanover | 85 | 58 | 73 | -3 | 1.01 | 6 | 19.38 | 6.96 | 47 | 1,699 | 149 | 2,707 |
| Shippensburg | 87 | 61 | 74 | -2 | 3.02 | 6 | 18.64 | 6.02 | 48 | 1,738 | 197 | 2,743 |
| South Mountain | 84 | 56 | 70 | -3 | 0.77 | 5 | 18.34 | 5.40 | 43 | 1,381 | 127 | 2,328 |
| York | 85 | 59 | 73 | -2 | 1.19 | 5 | 16.37 | 2.59 | 44 | 1,668 | 122 | 2,683 |
| Southeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane | 94 | 59 | 72 | -2 | 5.62 | 5 | 18.22 | 4.71 | 49 | 1,785 | 425 | 2,824 |
| Hamburg | 86 | 59 | 71 | -1 | 3.65 | 5 | 15.50 | -0.82 | 55 | 1,596 | 366 | 2,611 |
| Hopewell | 87 | 61 | 72 | -5 | 3.79 | 5 | 19.18 | 5.06 | 62 | 1,633 | 6 | 2,650 |
| Lancaster | 84 | 60 | 72 | -3 | 3.64 | 4 | 19.79 | 5.69 | 51 | 1,673 | 239 | 2,698 |
| Neshaminy Falls | 90 | 62 | 73 | -2 | 5.02 | 3 | 18.25 | 2.62 | 47 | 1,749 | 318 | 2,780 |
| New Holland | 85 | 61 | 72 | -3 | 2.26 | 5 | 17.50 | 3.40 | 52 | 1,668 | 234 | 2,679 |
| Philadelphia | 89 | 66 | 74 | -3 | 4.83 | 3 | 19.23 | 5.60 | 47 | 1,946 | 281 | 2,992 |
| Philadelphia NE | 90 | 62 | 74 | -4 | 5.86 | 4 | 18.16 | 4.53 | 48 | 1,879 | 214 | 2,922 |
| Reading | 87 | 60 | 72 | -3 | 3.15 | 4 | 17.03 | 2.00 | 47 | 1,700 | 297 | 2,729 |
| Valley Forge Na | 91 | 58 | 72 | -5 | 5.09 | 3 | 16.84 | 2.72 | 44 | 1,665 | 38 | 2,684 |
| Willow Grove | 87 | 62 | 72 | -3 | 4.40 | 3 | 13.64 | -1.99 | 47 | 1,764 | 333 | 2,802 |

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

Bucks County, Michael Fournier (EXT) - - Much needed rain fell last week, about 5" for the week, averaged over the county. This will be enough moisture to "make" a good deal of the early corn. Beans look good but are a little short due to dry weather two weeks before rain. Some wheat still standing, quality will be an issue once the ground dries out enough to harvest.

Centre County, Dick Decker - - A wet week, 3.75 inches in my gauge. Little field work completed, we need some clearing and sunshine for a few days to dry things off.

Forest County, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - - The rain fell everyday this week. Corn throughout the counties is poor to fair. Many fields are uneven. Water is drowning out the crops in the low areas. There is an abundance of hay that is of very poor quality. Most of the first crop hay has been left or chopped for mulch in the fields is what I'm hearing from farmers. The storms this week have left oats and first crop hay flatten.

Franklin County, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - - Showers were numerous this week causing sporadic changes in haymaking plans. Week was one of the best of the summer for crop growth. Corn is still looking as if it will be a bumper crop. Hay has been good when it could be harvested and soybeans are growing well. Fruit crops all look to be excellent quality this year.

Fulton County, Russ McLucas - - The excessive moisture is really causing some serious grief in trying to harvest small grains and hay. Grain quality is bad at best, and hay is no better. With the amount of cloud cover we have been under all growing season I am very much concerned on corn yields. Has there been enough available sunlight on leaf surface to "make yield"? I strongly suspect corn yields in some areas will be very much different than expectations

Juniata County, Greg Hostetter (EXT) - - The corn and soybeans in general look great. There are numerous small areas that show yellowing due to nitrogen leaching. Some fields are showing stunting due to injury from post emergence herbicides. Leafhoppers are abundant, but if controlled the alfalfa looks great. Even grass fields are growing well, the challenge continues to be harvesting dry hay.

Mercer/Lawrence County, D Earl Smith (FSA) - - Rain returned this week with parts of the county receiving over 5 inches. in one day! Wheat yields are higher than expected with yields being reported 60-70 bu. Corn and soybeans looking great with the expectation for higher yields that we have not seen for the last few years.

Montgomery County, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - - Welcome rains turn to unwanted rains after nearly 5 inches fell on Monday and 2 inches on Wednesday along with strong winds and hail. No field activity of any kind this week. Still wheat to combine and quality is now expected to be poor. More rain in two days than all of May and June combined.

Potter/McKean/Cameron Counties, David Stratton (FSA) - - Extremely wet week for haymaking. Corn and hay 2nd cutting growing in ideal conditions.

Snyder County, William C. Sheaffer - - Very heavy rains early in the week put a halt to many of the planned field activities. Potato leafhopper is beginning to show up in spots. The corn and soybeans in the poorly drained areas are turning yellow and not growing. The field activities were limited to spraying, spreading manure, repairing machinery and chopping poor quality hay.

Tioga County, Linda Carmichael - - The oats here are from 8" to headed to turning. The corn is anywhere from 5" to 5-6', beans are also in all stages, from just planted to 18". Overcast skies and lots of rain this week with temperatures in the high 70's to low 80's. Parts of the county saw small hail with the late Saturday night thunderstorms.

Tioga County, Pamela Barnes - - Another wet week in the northern tier. All field work has stopped with excess moisture. Hay making is delayed waiting for some sunshine. Corn growth is looking good. Some early corn has tasseled. Weed control is still ongoing. Weather is holding up spraying.

Westmoreland County, John Lohr(FSA) - - Poor week for harvesting with the cool and damp conditions. Widely-scattered showers are leaving a few areas in need of moisture. The wheat harvest is behind because of the frequent light showers. Corn continues to do very well. Baling dry hay continues to be a challenge.

York County, Wayne Kurtz (FSA) - - Final harvested wheat acres are being rounded up. Yields in general were better than expected with 60 bu./ac topping out the high end. Corn is in excellent shape and, as of now, could top the 2000 crop year bu/ac record. There may be a record acreage of double cropped soybeans as result of a 10 day earlier harvest and current weather conditions. Green bean harvest started this week with many reports of 3-4 tons/ac. Good quality hay remains a hard find.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 18, 2004

| Crop | Current Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Corn, silk | 58 | 2 | 24 |
| Corn, dough | 9 | 0 | 4 |
| Corn average height, inches | 69 | 43 | 51 |
| Barley, harvested | 98 | 87 | 91 |
| Wheat, ripe | 99 | 65 | 85 |
| Wheat, harvested | 72 | 30 | 63 |
| Oats, heading or headed | 95 | 90 | 94 |
| Oats, turning yellow | 60 | 31 | 58 |
| Oats, ripe | 23 | 7 | 31 |
| Oats, harvested | 0 | 2 | 12 |
| Alfalfa, 2nd cutting | 63 | 37 | 59 |
| Alfalfa, 3rd cutting | 15 | 7 | 12 |
| Timothy clover, 1st cutting | 91 | 77 | 88 |
| Timothy clover, 2nd cutting | 14 | 7 | 18 |
| Peaches, harvested | 26 | 9 | 11 |
| Apples, harvested | 7 | 0 | 2 |

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 18, 2004

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Corn | 1 | 4 | 13 | 35 | 47 |
| Wheat | 2 | 11 | 34 | 45 | 8 |
| Oats | 7 | 13 | 30 | 38 | 12 |
| Soybeans | 1 | 1 | 9 | 52 | 37 |
| Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand | 3 | 5 | 21 | 48 | 23 |
| Timothy clover stand | 2 | 7 | 26 | 42 | 23 |
| Quality of hay made | 17 | 25 | 21 | 27 | 10 |
| Pasture | 4 | 4 | 19 | 57 | 16 |
| Peaches | 0 | 1 | 6 | 38 | 55 |
| Apples | 0 | 0 | 20 | 55 | 25 |

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